

NORTHERN MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION PROJECT (NMCP)

Annual Technical Progress Report (July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002)



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Abbreviations

BSP	Biodiversity Support Program
BZ	Buffer Zone
BZUC	Buffer Zone Users Committee
CFUGs	Community Forest Users' Groups
DADTAG	Dolpo Association for Development, Tourism and Generation
DDC	District Development Committee
DESERT	Dolpo Educational, Social, Environmental Reserve Team
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
DPC	Damp Proof Course
DPP	District Partnership Program
EE	Environmental Education
EFEA	Environment and Forest Enterprise Activities
Ha	Hectare
MFSC	Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation
HH	Household
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
Mgmt.	Management
NFE	Non-formal Education
No.	Number
NMCP	Northern Mountains Conservation Project
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
NGO	Non-government Organization
PEC	Project Executive Committee
PPI	People and Plants Initiative
Qty	Quantity
SLCC	Snow Leopard Conservation Committee
SN	Serial Number
SO	Strategic Objective
SPNP	Shey-Phoksundo National Park
THCC	Traditional Health Care Center
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Executive Summary

The northern mountains region of Nepal has a wealth of diverse biodiversity. The remote Himalayan valleys have been the centers of evolution for many unique life forms and are the natural museums for rich genetic resources, much of which has been lost due to loss of forest coverage and over-exploitation of certain species of economically important plants. Poverty, illiteracy, unsustainable use of natural resources, lack of awareness, and inadequate data for monitoring endangered wildlife species continue to pose challenges to conservation of biodiversity in Shey- Phoksundo National Park (SPNP) and its buffer zone (BZ).

Considering these problems, with the financial support of USAID and WWF, WWF/NP has launched the Northern Mountains Conservation Project (NMCP) in SPNP and its BZ in collaboration with DNPWC. The goal of the project is to conserve biodiversity in SPNP and the main purpose is to facilitate local management of natural resources and to improve living conditions while safe guarding the region's unique natural heritage.

This annual technical progress report contains the achievements of the project for the period July 2001 to June 2002. Achievements include:

- Training workshop for CFUGs
- Legalization of nine CFUGs.
- Community plantation and nurseries.
- Training for BZ management committees including CFUGs.
- Completion of non-formal classes at different clusters of project areas.
- Strengthening and formation of women's groups.
- Increased saving and credit activities.
- Environmental and conservation education in local schools.
- Continuation of agro-forestry programs.
- Support to eco-clubs.
- Training to the local hotel owners.
- Development of park building as a visitor and training centre.
- Preparation of a draft management plan of SPNP.
- Construction of THCC in Dho VDC.
- Ethnobotanical field methods workshop.
- National workshop on conservation and management of medicinal and aromatic plants.
- Community exchange and study tour to India.
- Renovation of water mills.
- Record keeping training to BZUCs including eco clubs.
- Alternative energy (solar lights) promotion.
- Publication of book on medicinal plants of Dolpo and amchis' knowledge.

An extension of the project from October 2001 to September 2002 was approved by USAID to complete the activities and enable the strengthening of the CBOs. Furthermore, as a follow-up of the project and to strengthen the capacity of the CBOs and selected organizations involved with the management of natural resources, a new project has been developed in response to USAID's Strategic Objective 5. Coordination with partner NGOs, GOs, and other line agencies is being continued and the activities during this reporting period have been carried out successfully despite the ongoing security situation in the country.

INTRODUCTION

Shey-Phoksundo National Park (SPNP) which spreads over 3,555 km² in remote Dolpo and Mugu districts is Nepal's largest national park. Diverse animals and plants thrive amid the region's unique trans-Himalayan ecology and stark natural beauty. Growing threats to its wildlife, such as the snow leopard, prompted His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMG/N) to declare the area as a national park in 1984. It was closed to tourists until 1989 when its southern portion was opened. The northern section was opened on a restricted basis in 1992. Today, about 3,200 people live inside the park and 10,000 in its buffer zone (BZ) of 1,349 km² declared by HMG/N in October 1998. SPNP has also been proposed as a "World Heritage Site" for its unique cultural and natural features.

The communities in Shey Phoksundo National Park engage in agriculture, animal husbandry and trade for their livelihood and depend heavily on the forests and pasture resources for their energy, fodder and timber needs. An increasing pressure on forest and pasture resources from livestock and trade in non-timber forest products, inadequate data for endangered species, unsustainable use of natural resources, and limited park staff continue to pose problems for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of resources. The Northern Mountains Conservation Project (NMCP) supported by USAID and WWF was initiated in SPNP (1996-2001) to facilitate local management of natural resources and to improve living conditions while safeguarding the region's unique natural heritage. At the same time, the People and Plants Initiative was also started in June 1997 to address conservation and development issues related to the use of plant resources. The NMCP has been extended until September 2002 after which a follow-up has been planned for four years until September 2006 to implement USAID's Strategic Objective 5 (Strengthened Governance of Natural Resources and Selected Institutions) in the buffer zone of SPNP.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Northern Mountains Conservation Project (NMCP) is to conserve biodiversity in SPNP and BZ by (i) strengthening the capabilities of local user groups, NGOs and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation staff to carry out development and conservation initiatives in the protected areas and buffer zones, and (ii) promoting sustainable economic growth that increases local incomes.

The main purpose of this project is to facilitate local management of natural resources and to improve living conditions while safeguarding the region's unique natural heritage. The specific objectives of the project are:

Community Natural Resource Management:

- * to train local groups in controlling and managing natural resources
- * to increase production of fodder, fuel wood, timber and grass
- * to increase women's participation in development
- * to educate the people about nature conservation
- * to help the people manage their natural resources better

Increased Women's Participation in Micro Enterprises:

- * to develop nature-based small businesses to raise rural incomes
- * to increase earnings through value-added processing of forest and livestock products
- * to promote quality tourism that helps local economy

Protected Area Planning And Management:

- * to manage protected areas and buffer zones effectively through local people's participation
- * to train government personnel in buffer zone management
- * to provide necessary equipment to park/reserve for effective management
- * to gather relevant information on plants, animals and socio-economy
- * to help implement the government's buffer zone regulations

Applied Research Activities (People and Plants Initiative):

- * to promote sustainable use of medicinal plants through ethnobotanical research
- * to promote the medical tradition of the amchis for local health care
- * to build the capacity of amchis and women to provide health care services
- * to link local health care development with the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants

PROGRESS

1. Community Natural Resource Management:

1.1 CFUGs Training Workshop:

A two-day training on community forestry management was organized for community forest user groups (CFUGs) in Dunai on September 20-21, 2001. Fifteen participants from ten CFUGs took part in the training on the concept of community forestry, forestry management, including the sustainable use of resources, NMCP activities, CFUGs operational plan and the importance of conservation (Table 1). The main objective of the training was to enable the participants to manage their forest resources. Mr. Bhogendra Raimajhi from SPNP, Mr. Bishwanath Baitha from District Forest Office, and Mr. Tilak Dhakal and Mr. Surendra Chaudhary from NMCP facilitated the training.

Table 1: Participants of the training for CFUGs.

S.N.	Name of the participants	Name of CFUGs	Address	Designation
1	Panna Bdr. Thapa	Ban Devi	Tripurakot VDC 5,6 Ruma	Secretary
2	Chandra Bdr. Budha	"	"	Member
3.	Sher Bdr. Budha	Mahankal	Tripurakot 7-8 Rashi	Secretary
4	Tika Budha	"	"	Member
5	Dhana Bdr. Thapa	Dueti	Tripurakot-4	Chairperson
6	Laxmi Devi Budhathoki	Sunaulo Rani	Kaigaon 4,5,6,7.	Secretary
7	Manmal Budha	Himali	Tripurakot 2,3,4	Chairperson
8	Udaya Chand Newar	"	"	Member
9	Hari Bdr. Bohara	Dudhkundali	Rimi Jhyakot	Chairperson
10	Top Bahadur Bohara	"	"	Secretary
11	Maka Thapa	Maluwa Himal	Kaigaon	Secretary
12	Ujel Kumar Baduwal	Samling	Rimi Chaurikot	Secretary
13	Tila Rokaya	"	"	Chairperson
14	Yam Bahadur Bohara	Maluwa	Kaigaon	
15	Laxmi Pd. Upadhaya	Bikram Shahi Maharaja	Tripurakot 1,2,9	Secretary

1.2 Legalization of CFUGs:

Nine CFUGs in SPNP and its buffer zone were legalized on September 22, 2001 in Dunai, the district headquarters. Out of the ten CFUGs formed so far in SPNP and BZ to manage and promote sustainable use of natural resources, nine have prepared their operational plans and the forests have been handed over to them (Table 2). The operational plans of the CFUGs follow the model developed by Biodiversity Support Program (BSP) for the project areas of Environment and Forest Enterprise Activities (EFEA) and contain detailed inventories of resources, boundaries, areas, use rights, ownership and methods of sustainable use of natural resources. It is expected that 3,975 people of 698

households will benefit from the nine legalized community forests, which occupy 4,554.60 hectares of forest area.

Table 2: Details of the legalized CFUGs.

S.N.	Name of CFUG	Address	Area in Hectare	Household	Beneficiaries M	F	Legalization date
1	Bikram Shahi	Tripurakot 1,2,4	226.8	128	466	455	22.Sep.2001
2	Ban Devi	Tripurakot 5,6	196	86	234	215	22.Sep.2001
3	Himali	Tripurakot 2,3,4	486.8	123	301	301	22.Sep.2001
4	Deuti	Tripurakot 4	161	52	139	125	22.Sep.2001
5	Samling	Rimi 7,8	1,005.2	28	90	100	22.Sep.2001
6	Dudhkundali	Rimi 1 to 6	1,326.4	134	409	398	22.Sep.2001
7	Maluwa Himal	Kaigaon 8,9	465.2	55	111	125	22.Sep.2001
8	Himali	Kaigaon 1,2,3	633.2	44	111	125	22.Sep.2001
9	Sunaulo Rani Mahila	Kaigaon 4,5,6,7	54	48	135	135	22.Sep.2001
Total		9	3 VDCs	4,554.60	698	1,996	1,979

1.3 Community Nurseries Follow-up and Support:

To increase forest coverage, 10,250 seedlings of *Pinus roxburghii*, *Rubania pseudoacacia*, *Olea ferruginea*, *Pinus wallichiana* and *Quercus semecarpifolia* have been produced in six nurseries, out of which five are managed by CFUGs and one by a community eco-club (Table 3). Manathan Community Nursery in Pahada has been provided Rs.15,000 by the project for improving management, and the other nurseries have been provided technical assistance during this period.

Table 3: Details of nurseries and seedling production.

S.N.	Name of CFUG/Eco club/Place	No of seedlings	Types of seedlings	Remarks
1	Himali Tripurakot Ralli	3,100	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> .	Growing
2	Bandevi CFUG Tripurakot Ruma	1,500	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Growing
3	Buddha Nursery Tripurakot Rassi	650	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Growing
4	Manathan Community Nursery Pahada Chhala	1,500	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Growing
5	Mahakabi Community Eco-Club Nursery Ralli	1,500	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Growing
6	Majhgaon Community Nursery	1,100	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i> , <i>Quercus semecarpifolia</i>	Growing
Total		10,250		

NMCP has continued to provide technical and financial support to the forest nurseries formed by Mahadev BZUC of Ruma, Tripurasundari BZUC of Ralli, and Shey-Phoksundo National Park.

1.4 Community Plantations:

Community plantations are aimed at increasing forest coverage and reducing pressure on natural forest for fuel wood, fodder, timber and manure. During this period, 3,152 seedlings of various species were planted in community plantations in the buffer zone area (Table 4). Pragatiseel Community Eco Club of Galli has made a wall fence of 250 meters around the plantation area. They were also provided with 200 meters pipe for irrigation. Likewise, Mahakabi Devkota Community Eco Club has made a wall fence around the plantation area at Ralli with financial support from NMCP.

Table 4: Details of the plantations.

S.N.	Name of CFUG, BZUC, Eco-Club	No of Saplings	Types of Species	Place	Area in Ha
1	Dunai Boarding School	210	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i>	School compound	1.5
2	Mahakabi Devkota Community Eco-Club	395	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i>	Tripurakot Ralli	0.5
3	Satyadevi Community Eco-Club Tripurakot Rumba	347	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Juniperus recurva</i> , <i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Tripurakot Salyandhara	1
4	Pragatiseel Community Eco-Club	900	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i>	Galli Ghattagad	1
5	Bhagawati Buffer zone Users Committee	1,300	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> , <i>Olea ferruginea</i> , <i>Rubania pseudoacacia</i> , <i>Quercus semecarpifolia</i>	Thadobhitte and Pakhebbhitte	2
	Total	3,152			6

1.5 Winter Fodder Trail Support:

A five-kilometer distance of winter fodder trail has been renovated from Rassi to Jyalas of the Phoksundo VDC. In the winter season, the people of Raha and Phoksundo use this trail. The main responsibility of the renovation work of this trail was given to the BZUC of Tripurakot.

1.6 Training Workshop on Ethnobotanical Field Methods:

A three-day workshop on field techniques for work on conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants at SPNP was organized at the traditional health care centre (THCC) at Chunuwar in Phoksundo VDC on November 5-7, 2001 to build capacity of park staff and local community members in herbarium techniques, ecological monitoring of medicinal plants through plots and transects and development of simple indicators, and the use of GPS. Altogether, 35 participants attended the training workshop facilitated by the People and Plants Initiative (PPI) team (Table 5).

Table 5: Participants of the ethnobotanical training workshop.

S.N	Name of Participants	Address	Designation
1	Mr. Tangyal Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi of THCC
2	Mr. Nurbu Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi of THCC
3	Mr. Churpur Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Vice Chairman Phoksundo
4	Mr. Larke Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Motivator
5	Mr. Padam Buda	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Gamescout SPNP
6	Mr. Tshiring Buda	Phoksundo VDC Ringmo	Student Amchi
7	Mr. Bhim Gurung	Phoksundo VDC Ryanchi	Gamescout
8	Mr. Suka Gurung	Phoksundo VDC Ryanchi	Ecoclub Chairman
9	Mr. Palden Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Gamescout SPNP
10	Mr. Ram Prasad Pun		Gamescout SPNP
11	Mr. Chhoimel Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Gamescout SPNP
12	Mr. Gorakha Thapa	Tripurakot VDC Ruma	Gamescout SPNP
13	Mr. Semduk Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Chairman THCC
14	Mr. Shree Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi at THCC
15	Mr. Sitar Lama Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Ringmo	Secretary at THCC
16	Mr. Duksai Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
17	Mr. Rabla Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
18	Ms Yungdung	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
19	Ms Karsang Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
20	Ms Hoiser Lahmu Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
21	Mr. Phunjoo Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
22	Mr. Namsai Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
23	Mr. Punkyap Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
24	Ms Yangjum Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Community
25	Mr. Surya Bahadur Buda		Community
26	Mr., Tilak Dhakal	NMCP	PM
27	Mr. Surendra Chaudhari	NMCP	PA
28	Ms Yeshe Lama	PPI/WWF-NP	PO
29	Mr. Suresh Kumar Ghimire	PPI	Consultant
30	Mr. Gyatso Bista	PPI	Consultant
31	Mr. Dhana Prasad Shahi	PPI	Consultant
32	Mr. Ram Lochan Singh	SPNP	Acting Warden
33	Mr. Krishna Prasad Jaisi	Pahada VDC	Community
34	Mr. Man Bahadur Rokaya	PPI	Student researcher
35	Mr. Nagandra Kurumbang	PPI	Student researcher

1.7 National Workshop on Community-based Approaches to Conservation and Management of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

A national workshop was organized by the ethnobotany component (PPI) of NMCP on October 9-12, 2001 at the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara. Government and non-government organizations involved in the management of medicinal and aromatic plants as well as national experts on this subject were present. The main objectives of the workshop were to learn about and review accomplishments in community-based approaches to conservation and management of medicinal and aromatic plants in Nepal, learn about useful conceptual and methodological lessons in that field and identify gaps and opportunities for future work. Dr Bigyan Acharya from USAID participated in this workshop and presented a paper on the conservation status of most traded species of medicinal and aromatic plants of Nepal.

1.8 Operational Plan:

HMG Nepal declared nine VDCs of Dolpa and two VDCs of Mugu district as the buffer zone of SPNP in 1997 with specific rules and regulations, conservation and development policies. Since the declaration of the BZ, the NMCP has been started to work with BZ committees under the laws and rules of BZ issued by HMG. To launch development and conservation activities, NMCP has provided financial support for the preparation of the operational plan of BZ (SPNP).

1.9 Monitoring of Medicinal Plants Demonstration Plots:

The project has been supporting the experimental demonstration plots of selected medicinal plants established in two different sites of Pahada and Tripurakot VDCs (Table 6). The species selected are those under high pressure from trade such as Jatamansi (*Nardostachys grandiflora*), Sugandhawal (*Valeriana Jatamansi*), Atis (*Delphinium himalayai*) and Panchaunle (*Dactylorhiza hatagirea*). Sugandhwal showed comparatively better growth and development. The cultivation has been carried out in an area of about 4600m² through transplantation of wild rhizomes on private land at Khaliban-Seemkharka in Pahada VDC and Ruma-Cherpala in Tripurakot VDC.

Table 6: Experimental cultivation of commercially important medicinal plants

SN	Cultivation Site Area/Altitude	Species	No of Species		Percentage Success	Condition
			Cultivated	Survived		
1	Pahada VDC, Khaliban-Seemkharka, 100 m ² at 9000 ft.	Jatamansi	537	405	75%	Good
		Sugandhwal	436	352	80%	Excellent
		Atis	384	173	45%	Good
		Kutki	304	111	36%	Good
		Dhupjari	214	0	0%	-
		Panchaule	75	23	30%	Good
2	Tripurakot VDC, Ruma-Cherpala, 4500 m ² at 10,500 ft.	Jatamansi	4950	4950	100%	Excellent
		Sugandhwal	700	700	100%	Excellent
		Kutki	15	15	100%	Excellent
		Nirbisi	700	700	100%	Good
		Panchaunle	981	971	98%	Excellent

1.10 Monitoring of BZUCs and WGs:

Project staff Mr. Tilak Dhakal and Mr. Surendra Chaudhary visited the BZUCs, CFUGs, eco clubs and women's groups to monitor saving and credit, agro-forestry and other project activities from March 12-22, 2002. Various aspects of conservation and development were explained to the groups. NMCP and SPNP staff formed two groups with Mr. Surendra Chaudhari (NMCP) and Mr. Bhogendra Raimajhi (Ranger SPNP) monitoring activities in Upper Dolpa and Mr. Tilak Dhakal (NMCP) and Mr. Ram Lochan Singh (Ranger SPNP) monitoring activities in Lower Dolpa.

2. Increased Women's Participation:

2.1 Completion of NFE Classes:

To increase women's participation in conservation and development activities in SPNP and its buffer zone through increasing literacy, NMCP launched six months of NFE classes in its working VDCs. Out of the ten NFE classes conducted, two were in Kimri and Dolpo VDCs of Mugu district. The classes were successfully conducted in Kaigaon, Tripurakot, and Raha VDCs of Dolpa. Altogether, 179 women were enrolled, of which 149 continued until the completion period (Table 7).

Table 7. NFE classes conducted in SPNP and BZ

S.N	VDC/Ward	Name of the facilitator	Enrollment	Completion
1	Kaigaon-1 Hurikot	Sheri Budha	22	19
2	Kaigaon-2/3 Hurikot	Satya Devi Baiji	24	22
3	Raha-5	Hastaman Budhathoki	21	17
4	Raha-8 Phunaldhuwa	Sheerman Karki	24	20
5	Raha-6	Ms. Lila Chanda Karki	22	18
6	Tripurakot-7 Rassi	Jashi Ram Rokaya	24	19
7	Tripurakot-5 Ruma	Pushpa Raj Budha	20	16
8	Tripurakot-6 Ruma	Nar Bahadur Thapa	22	18
Total			179	149

2.2 Saving and Credit Activities:

To increase rural incomes and women's participation in development and conservation in SPNP and buffer zone, NMCP has motivated local women to form groups and initiate savings and credit program. Local NGOs DESERT and DAD TAG directly supervise groups in Kaigaon, Rimi, Pahada and Dho VDCs. The women's groups collect a fixed amount from each member on a monthly basis and invest it in income generation activities. Besides this, they play a key role in promoting social welfare and norms, primary health care, hotel and campsites management, community plantation, and traditional culture programs. Altogether, 42 women's groups have been formed (Table 8).

Table 8. Women's saving and credit groups in SPNP and BZ

S.N.	Name of WGs	Address	Monthly Saving (Rs)	No. of Members	Established
1	Himali	Maddhu 4, Tripurakot	10	38	2055
2	Tripura	Ruma 5,6 Tripurakot	10	50	2054
3	Dalit	Ruma 5,6 Tripurakot	10	24	2054
4	Sundariganga	Ralli 3 Tripurakot	5	45	2055
5	Radha	Galli 2 Tripurakot	10	16	2058
6	Mukteshwar	Karelikad 9 Tripurakot	10	32	2055
7	Buddha	Rassi Tripurakot	5	18	2055
8	Mahilabikash	Kota Tripurakot	10	12	2054
9	Annighurmo Kyalma	Kaigaon	5	43	2055
10	Bhagawati	Hurikot Kaigaon	5	42	2057
11	Teenmli	Thapagaon Kaigaon	5	60	2056
12	Bhagawati	Majhgaon Rimi	10	39	2055
13	Mahilajagaran	Jhyakot	10	44	2055
14	Himchuli	Loharwada	10	18	2055
15	Bahrbare	Loharwada	10	16	2055
16	Suwakoti	Chhyanchu	10	22	2055
17	Dawalpura	Chhyanchu	6	10	2055
18	Danfekasturi	Chhaurikot	10	28	2055
19	Kanjiroba	Pungmo Phoksundo	10	27	2055
20	Ringmo	Ringmo Phoksundo	10	29	2056
21	Kanjiroba	Ryachi Phoksundo	10	13	2058
22	Laligurans	Khaliban Pahada	10	17	2056
23	Himchuli	Pahada 3	5	23	2056
24	Sadharan	Pahada 7	5	20	2057
25	Bhagawati	Pahada 8	5	21	2057
26	Grihalaxmi	Chhala Pahada	10	45	2056
27	Mukuteshwar	Pahada 5	5	22	2057
28	Mastabhawani	Pahada 6	5	21	2057
29	Jagddula	Pahada 9	5	29	2057
30	Laligurans	Pahada 2	5	15	2056
31	Deurali	Pahada 4	5	20	2058
32	Babiro	Kota Tripurakot	10	23	2058
33	Ribu Bumba	Dho 1	10	25	2057
34	Khyulung Yarge Tsokpa	Dho	10	19	2057
35	Chobu Yarge Tsokpa	Dho	10	25	2057
36	Nima Fuk	Dho 3	10	12	2057
37	Bijer	Bijer	10	29	2058
38	Nyasamba	Dho 2	10	19	2057
39	Sipchok	Dho 4	10	14	2057
40	Changla Kyabo	Dho 5	10	16	2057
41	Rama Yarke	Dho 7	10	24	2057
42	Rebu Bumba Yarge	Dho	10	20	2057

2.3 Agro-forestry Support and Training:

In order to generate additional income and to improve nutrition, Laligurans Sisters Group of Khaliban, Pahada VDC and Mukuteswor Sisters Group of Karelikanda, Tripurakot VDC have been provided financial and technical support for improved management of their nurseries.

The project has introduced vegetable farming since last two years to raise additional income in the buffer zone and improve local nutrition. A technical assistant was hired for two months to provide training on agro-forestry and vegetable farming and seeds of different vegetables have been made available from the project. A one-day training on vegetable farming was organized at Ralli, Galli, and Karelikada in Tripurakot VDC on March 26-29, 2002. Ninety-three women from Sundariganga, Radha and Mukuteswor Women's Groups were trained in land selection and preparation, bed preparation, seed keeping and germination, and irrigation and mulching methods.

2.4 Renovation of Water Mills:

To increase women's motivation and participation in conservation and development activities, improve their attitude towards the park, and generate additional income, NMCP has supported the women's groups in the construction of water mills in several communities. The water mills at Rassi and Karelikada of Tripurakot VDC were renovated by Buddha and Mukuteswor Women's Groups with support from the project.

2.5 Formation of Women's Groups in Bijer and Tripurakot VDCs:

To increase women's participation in development and conservation, NMCP has motivated local women to form groups and initiate a savings and credit program in the villages in SPNP and BZ. A group of women in Bijer VDC has started a savings and credit scheme. To encourage and support the women's group to initiate income generation, NMCP has provided a matching fund of Rs.25,000 during this period. The group has 29 ordinary members including 11 executive members.

A new savings and credit group has been formed at Sarkitol in Tripurakot VDC on January 18, 2002. The Sarki are a disadvantaged group and have traditionally been marginalized in their community. The formation of their own saving groups will help to empower them. There are 32 members including 9 executive committee members in this new group (Table 9).

Table 9. Members of the Dalit Women's Group in Tripurakot VDC

S.N.	Name	Designation	Age
1	Ms. Dharshi Sarki	President	39
2	Ms. Devi Sarki	Vice president	50
3	Ms. Dhankali Sarki	Treasure	18
4	Ms. Santi Sarki	Secretary	22
5	Ms. Pauli Sarki	Member	25
6	Ms. Kali Sarki	"	30
7	Ms. Bagi Sarki	"	31
8	Ms. Tals Sarki	"	35
9	Ms. Sumati Sarki	"	35

2.6 Stipends to Students:

Low literacy in and around the BZ of SPNP has been a major problem in the implementation of conservation and development initiatives. Considering this problem, NMCP has been providing stipends to students for acquiring primary education in local schools. During this period, 42 students from the local community have been provided stipends (Table 10).

Table 10 Stipends provided to students at local schools

S.N.	Name of School	Address	# Student	Remarks
1.	Dunai Boarding School	Dunai	6	
2.	Crystal Mountain Boarding School	Dho	20	
3.	Shelri Drukda Primary School	Saldang	8	
4.	Tapriza Primary School	Phoksundo	8	
			42	

3. Environmental Awareness Program

3.1 Environmental Education Classes in Schools:

Environmental education (EE) classes were conducted in 16 schools in SPNP and its buffer zone to raise awareness on nature conservation and its importance among the school children during this reporting period. It helped the students to identify local environment problems, change attitudes towards conservation and waste management systems through discussions, role-plays and environmental games. Altogether, 589 students benefited from these classes (Table 11).

Table 11. List of schools involved in environmental education.

S.N.	Name of the schools	Number of students in class		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Dunai Boarding School, Dunai.	12	8	20
2	Saraswati Higher S. School, Dunai	11	7	18
3	Tripura High School, Kaigaon.	13	17	30
4	Mahadev P. School, Thapagaon.	24	21	45
5	Bhagawati Lower Secondary School, Jhyankot	21	19	40
6	Mahakabi Devkota Primary School, Ralli	26	30	56
7	Tripura Lower Secondary School, Maddhu	23	19	42
8	Jyoti Primary School, Rumba	16	12	28
9	Shubhakamana Primary School, Raha	24	17	41
10	Balabhadra Primary School, Rassi	7	8	15
11	Laxmi Primary School Rassi	22	8	30
12	Mahankal Primary School Rassi	43	44	87
13	Tripura Primary School, Kota	23	19	42
14	Himjyoti Primary School, Kota	28	22	50
15	Mukporam Primary School, Bijer	25	20	45
16	Shelri Drukda Primary School, Saldang			
	Total	318	271	589

A one-day environmental education class was conducted in Dunai Boarding School on March 8, 2002 to encourage the eco clubs to analyze behavior and attitudes towards the environment and implement environment activities. Altogether 20 eco club members took part in the class, of whom 8 were girls. The students are playing an active role in keeping their school environment neat and clean and using the toilets properly. They have begun to be conscious of waste materials and have initiated solid waste management in their schools.

A two-day environmental education class was conducted for the eco club members of Mukporam Primary School, Bijer on June 21-22, 2002 and Shelri Drukda Primary School, Saldang on June 24-25, 2002. Forty-five students participated in the environmental education classes, of whom 20 were girls. Since environmental education is an important part of NMCP, the project has been providing technical and financial support to the eco clubs. NMCP Program Assistant Mr. Surendra Chaudhary conducted the classes using appreciative inquiry, observation and lectures.

3.2 World Environment Day Celebration:

NMCP has been supporting environmental activities through the involvement of local organizations, mostly school eco-clubs. Since its inception, the project has been celebrating the World Environment Day on June 5 each year to raise community awareness and participation in conservation and development programs.

In coordination with SPNP, DFO, DESERT and other line agencies and with the active participation of many enthusiastic individuals and local organizations, the World Environment Day 2002 was celebrated in Dunai through a clean-up campaign, plantation of seedlings of various species, poster competition and environmental games. At the program, the participants expressed their commitment

to conservation and the importance of such demonstrations in raising awareness and motivating people towards environmental conservation.

3.3 Formation of School Eco clubs and Orientation:

The NMCP has been promoting environment education in the local schools through the formation of eco clubs aimed at raising environmental awareness and promoting and sustaining students' participation in conservation. Five new eco clubs have been formed at Tripurasundari Lower Secondary School, Tripurakot, Kasturi Lower Secondary School, Bhagbati Primary School, and Deurali Primary School, Pahada, and Sundari Primary School, Rimi (Table 12).

An orientation on eco clubs was given to 131 students in Tripurakot and Pahada. The orientation program focused on the importance of various environmental aspects such as plants, animals, land, water, air, crops, waste management and methods for their conservation. The importance of environmental sanitation including personal hygiene and cleanliness of schools, houses and surroundings were also stressed. The eco clubs were formed according to the process and rules issued by NMCP. There are now a total of 15 eco clubs in the buffer zone of SPNP.

Table 12. Formation of new school eco clubs.

S.N.	Name of the School	Date of Formation	Executive Committee Membership	Address
1	Tripura Lower Sec. School	March 15, 2002	12	Tripurakot - Kota
2	Kasturi L.Sec.school	March 20, 2002	13	Pahada-2
3	Deurali.P.school	March 21, 2002	12	Pahada-Bhargoan
4	Bhagabati Primary School	June 2002	11	Pahada-Challa
5	Sundari Primary School	June 2002	11	Rimi-Chaurikot

3.4 Formation of Community Eco Clubs:

Considering the importance of local youth in conservation through community development, community eco clubs have been formed by the project so that the youth can play a vital role. During this period, six new community eco clubs have been formed to mobilize the youth in the field of conservation and development initiatives (Table 13).

Table 13. Formation of new community eco clubs.

S.N.	Name of Eco club	Date of Formation	Executive Committee Membership	Address
1	Kailash Community Eco Club	March 18, 2002	11	Pahada- 2
2	Bhagwati Community Eco Club	March 12, 2002	11	Pahada-Challa.
3	Mulpani Community Eco Club	March 21, 2002	9	Pahada-5 Bhorgaun
4	Pragatiseel Community Eco Club	March 21, 2002	9	Pahada- 3, 4, 7
5	Kayraavan Community Eco Club	June 2002	11	Rimi –5 Majha Gaon
6	Sundari Jagdulla Community Eco Club	June 2002	11	Kaigaon-Hurikot

3.5 Orientation on Eco Club Activities:

A one-day orientation program was organized for 40 participants of Samaj Sudhar, Mahakabi Devkota, Kailash, and Bhagwati Community Eco clubs at Galligad and Pahada on March 17-18, 2002. The orientation aimed at identifying possible conservation and development activities that can be initiated and implemented by the local communities. At the end of the orientation, Samaj Sudhar Community Eco club at Tripurakot-Galli made a commitment to introduce a model kitchen gardening program in their village. They also announced their intention to carry out plantation at Bhumedand in two hectare of land. Likewise, Kailash Community Eco Club from Pahada-Bhutingra and Bhagwati Community Eco Club from Pahada-Challa committed to village clean-up campaigns.

3.6 Management Training for Community Eco Club:

To strengthen the capacity of community eco clubs in the BZ of SPNP in implementing integrated conservation and development activities, a management training was organized at the project field office at Galligad from March 23-25, 2002 for the community eco clubs. The training also aimed to stress the importance of national parks and BZs in conservation, highlight the activities of SPNP and NMCP, and develop annual work plans. Eighteen participants took part in the training which was facilitated by Mr. Tilak Dhakal, Mr. Surendra Chaudhary and Mr. CP Bhandari from NMCP and Mr. Bhogendra Rayamaji from SPNP (Table 14).

Table 14. Participants of the management training for community eco clubs:

S.N.	Name of the participants	Name of Eco club	Designation
1	Mr. Nanda Beer Rokaya	Surodaya Eco club, Madhu	Secretary
2	Mr. Chandra Bdr. Thapa	Satya Devi E. Club, Rumo	Secretary
3	Mr. Top Bdr. Shahi	Mahakabi E. Club, Ralli	Secretary
4	Mr. Tul Raj Shahi	Samajsudhar Club, Galli	Secretary
5	Mr. Bal Bdr. Thapa	Samajsudhar Club, Galli	Treasurer
6	Mr. Surya Bdr. Budha	Pragatiseel E. club	Secretary
7	Mr. Sher bdr. Shahi	Pragatiseel E. club	Treasurer
8	Mr. Lal Bdr. K.C	Mulpani Eco Club	Secretary
9	Mr. Chandra Pd. Mahatara	Mulpani Eco Club	Treasurer
10	Mr. Mandev Budha	Bhagwati Eco club	Secretary
11	Mr. Kham Bdr. Budha	Bhagwati Eco club	Treasurer
12	Mr. Lal Beer K.C.	Kailash Eco club	Secretary
13	Mr. Dhan Bdr. K.C	Kailash Eco club	Treasurer
14	Mr. Gyan Bdr. Budha	Pragatiseel Eco club	Secretary
15	Mr. Krishna pd. Bohara	Pragatiseel Eco club	Treasurer
16	Mr. Lalchandra Budha	Satya Devi, Rumo	Treasurer
17	Mr. Sher Bdr. Sashi	Pragati Sil Eco Club, Pahada	Treasurer
18	Mr. Surya Bdr. Buda	Pragati Sil Eco Club, Pahada	Secretary

4. Ecotourism Development

4.1 Alternative Energy Promotion:

The communities residing in SPNP and its BZ are heavily dependent on forest resources for fuelwood, timber, fodder and other daily needs. NMCP has initiated awareness programs in the community and schools to promote alternative energy use and introduced solar light systems in Saldang and Phoksundo VDCs to reduce the pressure on forest resources. A major objective of the alternative energy program is also to promote eco-tourism in Dolpo. During this period, 30 solar systems have been distributed in Saldang and Phoksundo VDCs benefiting 217 people (Table 15). During the next reporting period, 120 solar systems that have already been purchased will be transported to SPNP and distributed to households in Saldang VDC. This program is expected to raise awareness about the importance of alternative energy for nature conservation and reduce pressure on natural resources for lighting.

Table 15. Details of solar distribution.

S.N.	Cluster Name	Beneficiaries				Total Beneficiaries
		No of Solar	No of Households	Male	Female	
1.	Phoksundo VDC 6, 7 Pungmo	5	7	15	12	27
2.	Phoksundo VDC 1 Ringmo	1	2	3	6	9
3.	Phoksundo VDC 1, 2, 3, 4 Rikhe	5	7	16	14	30
4.	Phoksundo VDC 5 Rynchi	6	7	22	19	41
5.	Phoksundo VDC 5 Chepka	1	1	2	1	3
6.	Saldang VDC 4, 5, 6, 8	7	7	27	28	55
7.	Saldang VDC, 4, 6, 8	5	6	25	27	52
Total		30	37	110	107	217

4.2 Improving Cooking Skills:

A five-day cooks' training was conducted on September 25-29, 2001 at Ringmo. Altogether 17 people participated in the training, including two men. Mr. Nauru Sherpa from Kathmandu and Mrs. Maya KC from Dunai facilitated the training and taught the preparation of 34 menu items. The participants were lodge operators of Ringmo, Chunuwar, Ryanchi and Chepka of Phoksundo VDC.

4.3 Development of a Visitor and Training Centre:

An old building of the Ringmo park post has been renovated by the project for use as a visitor centre and training venue. Materials for display in the centre will be developed during the next reporting period. The centre will be used to promote ecotourism and environmental awareness in the area.

5. Protected Area Planning And Management:

5.1 SPNP Management Plan:

A team representing WWF and the DNPWC led by Dr Khadga Basnet, Ecologist, visited SPNP in the months of July and August 2001 to draft a five-year management plan. The draft management plan has been sent to the representatives of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) and the DNPWC for comments. It will be presented at a workshop comprising of representatives of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) and the DNPWC, NGOs and donors involved in Shey Phoksundo National Park and buffer zone during the next reporting period.

5.2 Snow Leopard Conservation Committee Meeting:

There are currently five snow leopard conservation committees (SLCCs) in the park and buffer zone. A meeting of the snow leopard conservation main committee, which includes the chairpersons of the SLCCs, was organized in Dunai on March 25, 2002 under the chairmanship of Tashi Gyaltsen Lama. Eight members of the SLCCs participated in the meeting. General rules and regulations for wildlife damage compensation were discussed during the meeting. The project has provided a one-time grant of Rs 200,000 to the committee, which will be used with membership fees and BZ funds to sustain a compensation program for livestock depredation.

5.3 Formation of Snow leopard Conservation Committee:

A snow leopard conservation committee has been formed in Bijer, Upper Dolpa to involve local people in the conservation of the snow leopard and its prey species (Table 16). Before the formation of the committee, a one-day orientation to the villagers on the ecological value of the endangered keystone species, its prey species and relation to the human life was provided. The importance of various environmental aspects such as plants and animals, causes of livestock depredation and possible solutions were discussed after which the formation of the committee took place. Mr. Surendra Chaudhary (NMCP) and Mr. Bhogendra Raimajhi (SPNP Ranger) facilitated the orientation on June 18, 2002.

Table 16. Snow leopard conservation committee formation in Bijer.

S.N.	Name	Designation	Address
1	Mr. Sonam Turbo Gurung	President	Bijer VDC
2	Mr. Shebang Lundup Gurung	Vice-President	Bijer VDC
3	Mr. Tashi Chebang Gurung	Secretary	Bijer VDC
4	Mr. Konjok Thapa Gurung	Treasure	Bijer VDC
5	Mr. Serab Tenjing Lama	Member	Bijer VDC
6	Mr. Neema Gyaljang Lama	Member	Bijer VDC
7	Mr. Chema Gurung	Member	Bijer VDC
8	Mr. Tensing Gyaljan Lama	Member	Bijer VDC
9	Mr. Tashi Chebang Gurung	Member	Bijer VDC

Snow leopard conservation committees in Saldang and Bijer VDCs are monitoring livestock depredation by the snow leopard to find ways to minimize losses. During the next reporting period, a national level strategy will be developed to conserve this endangered species as well as protect local community interests.

5.4 Snow leopard Conservation Workshop:

The snow leopard is a key indicator species for the mountain ecosystem and several studies have identified SPNP as a prime habitat in Nepal. Since the snow leopard population is threatened by retaliatory killings by local communities for livestock depredation and illegal trade of its pelt, a three-day awareness workshop was organized on June 22-24, 2002 in Saldang, Upper Dolpa. The major objectives of the workshop were to:

- enable the participants to understand the ecological value of the snow leopard.
- explain the role and importance of the snow leopard conservation committees.
- analyze the condition of livestock depredation.
- explain simple monitoring techniques for the snow leopard.
- discuss possible ways to mitigate livestock depredation.

Nine participants from the snow-leopard conservation committees including teachers from local schools participated in the workshop (Table 17). Mr.Surendra Chaudhary (NMCP) and Mr.Bhogendra Rayamaji (SPNP Ranger) facilitated the workshop.

Table 17. Participants of the snow leopard conservation workshop.

S.N.	Name	Address	Remark
1	Mr. Tanla Chebang Lama	Komang SLCC,Saldang	President
2	Mr. Tengyal Lama	Komang SLCC	Member
3	Mr. Chebang Lundup Gurung	SLCC,Mukporam,Bijer	Vice-president
4	Mr. Tashi Gyaltzen Lama	SLCC Main Committee	President
5	Mr. Tensing Namgyal Ghale	SLCC Main Committee	Secretary
6	Mr. Hinvy Lundup Lama	SLCC Main Committee	Member
7	Mr. Karma Rapke Lama	Tata Gaun	Bijer
8	Mr. Surya Gyawali	Shelri Drukda School,Saldang	Teacher
9	Mr.Tashi Lundup Gurung	Shelri Drukda School,Saldang	Teacher

5.5 Snow Leopard Monitoring:

Monitoring of the snow leopard at eight transects measuring 3,650 meters was carried out from June 9-27, 2002 by Park Ranger Mr. Bhogendra Rayamaji and Mr. Surendra Chaudhary (NMCP). During the monitoring of transects, 42 scrapes, 6 pugmarks and 9 scats were observed. Monitoring was based on the snow leopard monitoring manual developed by WWF and the International Snow Leopard Trust. Transects were identified and established by Dr. Rodney Jackson in 1999. Some identified transects have been changed into boulders because of stream diversion and disturbance through movement of people and livestock.

5.6 Training to Junior Park and Project Staff:

A five-day training on buffer zone management and supervision and monitoring techniques was conducted for 11 park gamescouts and community three motivators at Suligad on September 7-11, 2001. The objective of the training was to build capacity of park staff so that they can implement the programs smoothly at the village level. Concept of buffer zones, CFUGs and NMCP activities were explained. Mr.Uba Raj Regmi, Mr. Bhogendra Rayamajhi, Mr. Ram Prasad Bagaley of SPNP and Mr. Surendra Chaudhary and Mr. C. P. Bhandari of NMCP were the resource persons for the training.

5.7 Record keeping training:

A three-day record keeping training was organized on November 25-27, 2001 at Tripurakot for members of BZUCs and CFUGs to develop skills in financial management and procedures and strengthen capacity to launch integrated conservation and development activities. The training focused on effective accounting and office operation. Project Manager Mr. Tilak Dhakal and SPNP Accountant Mr. Nara Bahadur Raut facilitated the training. Table 18 contains the detailed list of participants.

Table 18. Participants of the record-keeping training.

S.N.	Name of Participants	Name of Group	Designation
1.	Mr.. Dev Prasad Budhathoki	Pailee Himal BZUC	Treasurer
2	Ms. Suntali B.C.	Sunaula Rani, CFUG	Treasurer
3.	Ms. Bish Karki	Devi B.Z.	Member
4.	Mr.. Amar Bahadur Thapa	Mahadevsthan BZUC	Treasurer
5.	Mr.. Ujwol Baduwal	Samling BZUC	Secretary
6.	Mr.. Bahadur Rokaya	Malika CFUG	Treasurer
7.	Mr.. Bishnu Lal K.C.	Mukuteshwor BZUC	Secretary
8.	Mr.. Harishchandra Shahi	Mastabhawani CFUG	Treasurer
9.	Mr.. Suk Raut	Tritha BZUC	Treasurer
10	Ms. Seri Budda	Jagadulla BZUC	Treasurer
11	Miss. Kyalmum Lama	Jagadulla BZUC	Treasurer
12	Mr.. Lal Bahadur Bohara	Maluwa CFUG	Treasurer
13	Mr.. Jade Aideo	Bhagawati BZUC	Chairperson
14	Mr.. Ram Lal Bohara	Dudhakundali CFUG	Secretary
15	Mr.. Jit Bahadur Thapa	Himali CFUG	Treasurer
16	Mr.. Tshing Kyabu Bohora	Manhankal CFUG	Treasurer
17	Mr.. Jang Bahadur Rokaya	Mahadev BZUC	Treasurer
18	Mr.. Thinle Bohora	Bikram Shahi CFUG	Treasurer
19	Mr.. Ravi Lal		
20	Mr.. Rana Bahadur Budha	Ban Udyam	Manager

5.8 Sub Grant Support to BZUCs:

In order to increase local participation in conservation and development, the project has formed several community-based groups in the BZ of SPNP. These groups have been provided technical and financial support to carry out local development and conservation initiatives. During this period, Laligurans Women's Group of Khaliban has been supported for managing the experimental cultivation plots of medicinal plants, Babirio Women's Group of Dageena, Pahada for wall fencing apple saplings, Phoksundo Medicinal Plants Management Committee (MPMC) for experimental cultivation of medicinal plants, and Tripurasundari BZUC for establishing fruit nursery (Table 19).

Table 19. Support to BZUCs.

S.N.	Grantees	Purpose	Amount (Rs.)
1	Babirio Women's Group, Dageena	Wall fencing	30,000.00
2	Laligurans Women's Group, Khaliban	Management of MP demonstration plot	11,000.00
3	Mr. Man Br Buddhi	Management of MP demonstration plot	24,000.00
4	Phoksundo MPMC	Establish demonstration plot of medicinal plant	45,000.00
6	Shelri Drukda School, Saldang	Stipends for students	25,000.00
7	Cystal Mountain School	Stipends for students	25,000.00
8	Tripurasundari. BZUC	Fruit Nursery	54,000.00

6. Applied Research Activities (People and Plants Initiative)

6.1 Traditional Health Care Promotion at Phoksundo:

The service provided by the THCC of Phoksundo is satisfactory. Altogether, 234 patients have been treated by this THCC during this period (20). In addition, a record of the major diseases and medicines provided has been maintained at the THCC to monitor the impact of the THCC in the long term. A system of recording the amounts of medicinal plants collected locally for use at the THCC has also been developed by the PPI component.

Table 20. Patients treated at the THCC.

Month	Male	Female	Total Beneficiaries
July	31	11	42
August	18	33	51
September	10	2	12
October	32	15	47
November	12	9	21
December	10	7	17
January	8	6	14
February	2	2	4
March	6	14	20
April	9	5	14
May	7	2	9
Jun	10	3	13
Total	125	108	234

6.2 THCC Management Committee Meeting:

The THCC management committee held a meeting on November 7, 2001 at the THCC in Chunuwar, Phoksundo VDC to discuss on the draft operational plan of the THCC and the sustainability of the THCC. The participants decided to coordinate with the District Health Office, the District Development Committee (DDC) and VDCs to sustain the THCC (Table 21).

Table 21. List of participants at the THCC meeting.

S.N.	Name of Participants	Address	Designation
1.	Tangel Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi, THCC
2.	Semduk lama	Taprizza Boarding School	Director, Taprizza S
3.	Shree Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi, THCC
4.	Nurbu Lama	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi, THCC
5.	Tshring Budda	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Amchi student
6.	Sitar Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Secretary, THCC
7.	Chhomel Lama	Shey Phoksundo National Park	Game Scout, SPNP
8.	Duktar Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Member, THCC
9.	Dawa Sangmo	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Member, THCC
10.	Karma Gurung	Phoksundo VDC Pungmo	Member, THCC
11.	Semduk Nima Lama	Phoksundo VDC Ringmo	Chairperson, THCC
12.	Chupur Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Ringmo	Chairperson Phoksundo VDC
13.	Palden Lama	Phoksundo VDC Ringmo	Game Scout SPNP
14.	Dhan Prasad Shahi	PPI	Consultant PPI
15.	Gyasto Bista	PPI	Consultant PPI
16.	Y.C. Lama	WWF NP	PO WWF
17.	Tilak Dhakal	NMCP	PM
18.	Padam Buda	Phoksundo, Ringmo	Eco club
19.	Yangzom Lama	Phoksundo, Pungmo	Trainee, THCC
20.	S. Chaudhary	NMCP	PA

6.3 THCC Development at Dho:

Community meetings were held in November 2001 for the construction of a THCC which is ongoing at Dho. Construction work like foundation excavation and masonry works up to DPC level has been

completed. Wood processing for the THCC for window frames, beams, and planks has been completed. This activity is part of the local health care development component of PPI.

6.4 Women's Health Care Training

With an objective to raise awareness about personal hygiene, cleanliness and prevention of disease, a five-day training in health care for women was organized at the NMCP field office at Galligad on June 11-15, 2002 (Table 22). The training focused on first aid methods, immunization, causes, symptoms and treatment of tuberculosis, and traditional birth attendance (TBA). Altogether 19 participants from the women's groups of Pahada and Tripurakot VDC took part in the training. Mr. Sher Bahadur Kathayath and Mr. Padmawati Neupane, health care professionals from Dunai, facilitated the training.

Table 22. Participants of the health care training for women.

S.N.	Name	Address	Remarks
1	Mrs. Jusmati sharki	Tripurakot,1,kot	
2	Mrs. Laxmi Rokaya	Tripurakot,2,Kot	
3	Mrs. Hiralaxmi shahi	Tripurakot,2,Gaulli	
4	Mrs. Chakhulli Damai	Tripurakot,3,Raulli	
5	Mrs. Tula Thukpa Thapa	Tripurakot,4,Maddha	
6	Mrs.BishinsDhana Laxmi Dhakal	Tripurakot,5,6,Rum	
7	Mrs. Kamala Budha	Tripurakot,5,6,Rum	
8	Mrs. Daukali Lama	Tripurakot,7,8,Rashi	
9	Mrs. Dhandali Bohora	Tripurakot,9,Karalidada	
10	Mrs. Bisha Rokaya	Pahada,2, Chhal	
11	Mrs. Nidushara K C	Pahada,2,Mulingra	
12	Mrs. Rati Jaishi	Pahada,3,Devkotadada	
13	Mrs. Muna shahi	Pahada,4,Shahiwada	
14	Mrs. Bishnu Rrupa K C	Pahada,4,Moergaue	
15	Mrs. Bisna K C	Pahada,6,Shergaue	
16	Mrs. Krishna B K	Pahada,7,Lakhawa Wada	
17	Mrs. Manakali K C	Pahada,8,Rawotwada	
18	Mrs. Putha K C	Pahada,9,Dagina	
19	Mrs. Dhawa Roma Gurung	Pahada,9,Khaliban	

6.5 Amchis' Workshop

During this period NMCP organized a workshop discusses and fined solutions to the materials and intellectual issues that confront them. The workshop was organized from June 24-26, 2002 in Dho Tarap and was hosted by Naychen Budha Rivo Dolpo Lama Amchi Association. Altogether 27 participants took part in the workshop. Discussion centered on the need to improve hygiene, sanitation and nutrition as a means to improve local health, need for training in health issues and the importance of seeking prompt medical attention.

6.6. Improved Cooking Stoves

To reduce impact upon forest resources by decreasing fuel-wood consumption, NMCP has distributed improved cooking stoves to 30 households in Tripurakot VDC benefiting 164 people.

6.7 Scholarship for Amchi Trainees and Students

To promote local health care development through capacity building of amchis, the project has provided support to Ms Yangzom Lama from Pungmo and Mr. Namsak Lama from Ringmo for training in amchi knowledge and practices at the THCC within the PPI component.

Furthermore, the project has also provided scholarships to Mr. Chiring Buda from Ringmo and Mr. Namsai Bajee and Mr. Bonkyab Lama from Pungmo to carry out formal amchi training at the Dhorpatan Amchi School in Baglung District.

6.8 Community Exchange:

A group of local amchis, conservationists, and members of the THCC belonging to the Bonpo faith participated in a month-long study tour to Kathmandu, Pokhara and Mustang in December. The main objective of the tour was to enable the participants to share and exchange knowledge on the sustainable use of medicinal plants and Bonpo religion and culture. Ten participants took part in this exchange program supported by the PPI component (Table 23).

Table 23. Participants of the community exchange.

S.N.	Name of Participants	Address	Remarks
1.	Semduk Nima Lama	Tsoling Gonpa Ringmo	THCC Chairman
2.	Norbu Lama	Local Amchi	Amchi at THCC
3.	Nima Woser Lama	Yung Dung Gonpa, Kaigaon	Bonpo Lama
4.	Sherap Phuntsok	Seepe Gonpa, Karelíkanda Tripurakot	Bonpo Lama
5.	Dawa Lama	Shibchok Gonpa, Dho	Bonpo Lama
6.	Chupur Baiji	Phoksundo VDC Representative	VDC vice chairman
7.	Rikzin Baiji	SPNP Game Scout	Bonpo Gamescout SPNP
8.	Wangyal Lama	Tapriza School, Phoksundo	Teacher
9.	Yungdung Thargye Lama	Samling Gonpa, Bijer	Bonpo Lama
10.	Larke Lama	Pungmo	Motivator, NMCP

6.9 Publication of a Book on Medicinal Plants of Dolpo

A book entitled "Medicinal Plants of Dolpo: Amchis' Knowledge and Conservation" has been published by the People and Plants Initiative Project in SPNP in collaboration with the amchis of Dolpo. This book is an outcome of fieldwork carried out within the ethnobotany component of NMCP (PPI) and attempts to bring together the traditional knowledge of the amchis of Dolpo related to the ecology, management and sustainable use of medicinal plants. Proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to sustain the activities of the THCC in SPNP and its buffer zone.

6.10 Study Tour to India

A study tour was organized for nine BZUC members and SPNP and project staff between January 17-February 2, 2002 to observe traditional health care development and medicinal plants cultivation in the Himalayan region of India. The objective of the tour was to expose the representatives of the community, park and project to traditional health care development at the Tibetan Medical Institute in Dharamsala and medicinal plants cultivation at the Great Himalayan National Park in Himachal Pradesh. Medicinal plants cultivation and traditional health care development activities are ongoing in SPNP under the PPI.

7. Other Activities

7.1 Coordination meeting:

On November 11, 2001, a coordination meeting between SPNP and WWF/NP staff was held at Suligad under the chairmanship of the Acting Warden Mr. RL Singh. The main objective of the meeting was to improve coordination between the park and NMCP on various aspects. Ms. Yeshi C. Lama, Mr. Gyatso Bista, and Mr. Dhan P. Shahi (PPI consultant) were the invitees to the meeting. Project Manager (NMCP) Mr. T. Dhakal presented the progress report and the situation during this meeting. Such meetings will be held regularly to discuss the progress and other issues.

7.2 Staff Training:

Program Assistant Mr. Surendra Chaudhary participated in a "Training on Training Technique" held on January 26-February 5, 2002 at Gaidakot, Chitwan. The objective of the training was to enable the participants to design, formulate and conduct training at the field level. Mr. Chaudhary also went for a computer application training at Digital Computer Institute in Kathmandu from December 16-January 25, 2002. The training included MS Dos, MS windows, MS word and MS Excel.

7.3 Contact Office in Dunai:

A temporary site office and warehouse was established in Dunai, district headquarters, as decided by the first Project Executive Committee (PEC) meeting held in December 2001.

7.4 Workshop on NMCP Activities:

A one-day workshop on NMCP activities was organized at Hotel Blue Sheep at Dunai on March 11, 2002. The main objectives of the workshop were to develop better co-ordination with district stakeholders, NGOs, INGOs and other line agencies. The specific objectives were to inform about NMCP activities in the BZ areas, reduce program overlapping in the future, inform about BZ Act and regulation and develop co-ordination with DDCs and VDCs.

Mr. Tilak Dhakal explained about the goal and objectives of the NMCP. Similarly SPNP Ranger Mr. Birendra Kandel explained about the SPNP and BZ Act and Regulation and highlighted the conservation and development activities carried out by SPNP. Member of Parliament Mr. Nar Bahadur Budhathoki stressed the relevance of bio-diversity conservation in the modern day context and thanked the organizer for holding such a workshop. Speaking as the Chairperson of the workshop, DDC President Mr. Shivananda Budha emphasized on the rich bio-diversity resources of Dolpa and their economic, cultural and religious values. Mr Yogendra Bahadur Shahi, DDC Vice-Chairperson expressed his hope that the workshop would improve coordination between the DDC and NMCP. Participants of the workshop also highlighted the existing forms of threats to these important resources and proposed for better coordination for conservation and development initiatives. Altogether 70 participants took part in the workshop.

7.4 Proposal Development for Follow-up of NMCP:

In partnership with CARE Nepal, Mr. Ghana Shyam Gurung and Ms. Yeshi Choden Lama participated in a number of meetings for developing the buffer zone forestry component of the proposal to implement USAID's Strategic Objective (SO) 5-Strengthened Governance of Natural Resources and Selected Institutions-in Shey Phoksundo National Park and BZ. Mr Gurung and Ms. Lama also attended the proposal development workshop for the forestry component of SO5 held in Nepalgunj on June 24-25, 2002. The Warden of SPNP Mr Ubaraj Regmi and Mr Angad Hamal, DESERT, were also present for the workshop. The proposal for SO5, including the SPNP and BZ component will be submitted by CARE Nepal to USAID at the end of July 2002.

CONCLUSION:

Despite the difficulties of working in the current environment, the project in SPNP and BZ has been highly successful in completing its planned activities. At a time when many projects across the country are seriously affected by the security problems, NMCP has been able to continue its work because of the support and participation of the local communities and the skillfulness and dedication of the project field staff.

The formation of buffer zone users' committees, CFUGs and other community-based organizations empower local communities to play an active part in the management of natural resources. The plantations and nurseries managed by the CFUGs, women's groups and eco clubs are important demonstrations of community participation and support for resource management. Women's participation in integrated conservation and development has increased with the formation and capacity building of local women's groups. Participation in income generation activities, literacy and primary health care will empower women to play a major role in community natural resource management.

Raising environmental awareness is not limited to the eco clubs within schools. Activities such as nursery management, cleanup campaigns, and awareness programs during festivals and special occasions have been very successful in spreading environmental messages and raising awareness among the general public. The eco clubs play an important role in sustaining the environmental awareness programs after the project period.

Eco tourism has great potential in Dolpo district given its rich culture and rugged trans-Himalayan terrain. Given the prospects for eco tourism development and improved local livelihoods, the project has promoted solar light systems taking advantage of a subsidy program offered by HMG/N. Training in hotel management has been provided and a tourism plan has been submitted to the government.

Supporting NMCP's activities are the applied ethno-botanical activities of the People and Plants Project, which will continue for another four years. The two projects have supported one another and heightened the presence and overall impact upon community natural resource management and development in SPNP and its buffer zone.

The work of NMCP will be continued in Shey Phoksundo National Park and buffer zone with the SO5 project that is expected to start in October 2002. This new project will focus on strengthening governance of natural resources and selected institutions and will ensure that the effort initiated by NMCP matures and consolidates into genuine community empowerment.

Annex 1
Northern Mountains Conservation Project, Dolpa
Statistical Technical Progress Report
July 2001-June 2002

SN	Activities	Target (Annual)		Achievement				Remarks
		Unit	Benef.	Unit	Benef.	Completion date	Location	
1	Community Natural Resource Management							
	Legalization of CFUGs	No	6 Groups		9 Groups	20-21 Sept. 2001	Dunai, Dolpa	Chairman & Secretary of CFUGs
	Record Keeping Training to CFUG	per	12	per	15		Galligad	
	Nurseries and Plantation Support	No	6 Nur.	No	6 Nur.	Jul-Sept. 2001	Sulighad, Ruma, Ralli, Pahada, Saldang	
	Community Grant For Cultivation	no	3	no	3		Pungmo, Ruma and Khaliban	
	Training Workshop on Field Methods	per	20	per	36		Chunuwar Phoksundo	
	Support of Winter Fodder Trail	No	2	No	1 trail	Sept 2001	Tripurakot Rassi	
2	Increasing Women's Participation							
	Literacy Classes	Class	8	Class	10	Jul-Sept 2001		
	Monitoring of WGs	No	8	No	42	Regular		
	Support of WGs	No	3	No	3		Ryanchi, Kota, Dagin	
	Agro-forestry Support	No	7	No	8		Rimi, Kaigaon, Pahad	
	Stipent to Student	no	42	no	42	Sept 2001 May 2002	Dho, Saldang, Phoksundo, Dunai	
3	Environmental Awareness							
	School Eco Clubs	no		no	15			Annex 2
	Record Keeping to Eco clubs	no	12	no	20			
	Community Eco Clubs	no		no	16			Annex 2
	Environmental Education	no	8 school	no	16	Regular	Eco club	
4	Eco tourism Development							
	Alternative Energy	No	30	No	30	Sept 2001	Phoksundo and Saldang	
	Cook Training	Per	13	Per	17	25-29 Sept 2001	Ringmo	Hotel iers
	Ringmo Post Renovation	No	1	No	2	Sept, May	Ringmo, Sulighad	
	Community Sanitation (Toilet)	No	3	No	4	Jul Sept 2001	Saldang- 1 Ryanchi--2 Madhu--1	
5	Protected Area Planning and Management							
	Management plan (SPNP)	No	1	No	1	Jul-Sept 2001	Park and BZ	Final draft
	Capacity Building Workshop	time	1	no	1	Jun 2002	Saldang	SLCC
	Management Support to SLCC	no	1	no	2	Jun 2002	Saldang and Bijer	SLCC
	Awareness and Mobilization Workshop/Monitoring	time	1	time	1	Jun 2002	Saldang and Bijer	SLCC committee
	Monitoring Equipment	no	6	no	6	May 2002		Monitoring groups
	Capacity Building Workshop	time	1	no	1	Jun 2002	Saldang	SLCC
	Management Support to SLCC	no	1	no	2	Jun 2002	Saldang and Bijer	SLCC
	BZUC Support	NO	17	15		Regular	Park and BZ areas	
	Monitoring/ Follow up BZUC	NO	17	15		Jul- Jun 2002		
	Office Management Support	NO	17	15		Regular		
	Handover Activities	NO	17					
	Follow up Supervision Plan	NO	17	15		Regular		
	Operation Plan Preparation	NO	17	17		May 2002		
	BZ Committee Training	No	17	No	11	23-25 Sept 2001	Dunai	Chairman
	Park mgmt support training	no	14	no	11	7-11 Sept 2001	Sulighad	Gamescout
	HRD park and project staff	no	2	no	3			PC/P Asst.
	Coordination meeting	Per		Per	13 Per	Sept 2001	Sulighad	DDC, N/GO
	Situation analysis studies	time	1	time	1	Oct 2001	Park and BZ areas	

6	Applied Research (PPI)							
	Community Exchange	no	8	no	10	Jan. 2002	Mustang, Kathmandu	
	Support to Amchi Student	no	3	no	5	Apr. 2002	Phoksundo, Dhorpatan	
	THCC Dho	No	1	No	1	Regular	Dho Tarap	Construction ongoing
	THCC Phoksundo	no	1	no	1	Sept 2001		Grant support
	Improved Stove	No	30	no	30	May 2002		Not installed
	Amchi training workshop	time	1	time	1/33	Jun 2002		
	Local resource women	per	1	no	1	Regular		
	Local Assistant	no	3	no	3	Regular		
	Women Health Care Training	per	20	per	19	Jun 2002		

Annex- 2
Eco-clubs in SPNP and BZ

SN	Name of Eco Club	Address	Member #
A	Community Eco Club		
1	Suryodaya Eco -Club	Tripurakot 4 Maddhu	23
2	Satya Devi Eco- Club	Tripurakot Ruma	22
3	Mahakabi Devkota Eco Club	Tripurakot 4 Rally	15
4	Samaj Sudar Eco Club	Tripurakot 4 Galli	18
5	Pragatisil Eco- Club	Tripurakot 9 Karelíkanda	23
6	Kyaravan Eco- Club	Rimi Majha Gaon	25
7	Bhagabati Eco- Club	Pahada 1 Chhala	31
8	Kailash Eco- Club	Pahada 2 Bhutingra	15
9	Mulpani Community Eco- Club	Pahada 5 Bhorgaon	15
10	Pragatiseel Eco -Club	Pahada 3,4,7	
11	Sundari Jagdulla Eco- Club	Kaigaon Hurikot	21
12	Kan Taikatong Eco- Club	Phoksundo Ryanchi	11
13	Kanjirowa Eco- Club	Phoksundo Pungmo	31
14	Ringmo Eco- Club	Phoksundo Ringmo	35
15	Himalaya Devi Eco Club	Raha VDC Raha	15
16	Adarsha Eco Club	Raha VDC Parela	13
B	School Eco Club		
1	Crystal Mountain Eco Club	Dho VDC	101
2	Shelri Primari School Eco Club	Saldang VDC	95
3	Mukporong Eco Club	Bijer VDC Bijer	21
4	Tapriza Eco Club	Phoksundo VC	93
5	Eco Club Dunai Boarding School	Dunai Bazar	55
6	Sarashoti Eco Club	Dunai	328
7	Prakash Student Eco Club	Tripurakot 5 Ruma	72
8	Janajyoti Eco Club	Tripurakot 4 Maddhu	94
9	Tripura Sundari	Tripurakot 1 Kota	35
10	Mahakavi Dev kota Eco Club	Tripurakot 3 Ralli	89
11	Kasturi Eco Club	Pahada 2 Bhutingra	105
12	Bhagabati Eco Club	Pahada 1 Chhala	40
	Deurali Eco Club	Pahada	
13	Mahadevsthan Eco Club	Kaigaon 8 Thapagaon	77
14	Tripura secondary Eco Club	Kaigaon VDC Kaigaon	50
15	Sundari Eco Club	Rimi Chaurikot	50